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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 September 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Han Seung-soo (President of the General Assembly)..... (Republic of Korea)

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01-53615 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1)

Section I: Introduction

Paragraphs 3 and 4

1. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure. It took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section II: Organization of the session

Paragraphs 5 and 5 bis (General Committee)

2. *The Committee took note of the decision and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. It also took note of paragraph 5 bis contained in the addendum to the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 6 to 10 (Rationalization of work)

3. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7, 9 and 10 and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 11 (Opening date of the session)

4. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to resolution 55/14, by which the Assembly amended rule 1 of its rules of procedure to read that the Assembly should meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday following the second Monday in September.*

Paragraph 12 (Closing date of the session)

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should recess not later than Tuesday, 11 December 2001, and close on Monday, 9 September 2002. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that the First Committee should complete its work by Friday, 9 November, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) by Friday, 16 November, the Sixth Committee by Friday, 23 November, the Third Committee by Wednesday, 28 November, and the Second and Fifth Committees by Friday, 7 December 2001.*

Paragraphs 13 to 15 (Schedule of meetings)

6. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommended to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal meetings, should be adjourned by 6 p.m., and that no meetings should be held on weekends. It further decided to recommend that the cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 2001, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings.*

7. *The Committee decided to recommended that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees and should remind delegations of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.*

8. **The Chairman** strongly endorsed the suggestions made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate one of its members to be present at the scheduled starting time of meetings. While some progress had been reported, there was still considerable room for improvement. He therefore urged all delegations to cooperate.

Paragraphs 16 to 18 (General debate)

9. *The Committee took note of paragraph 16 specifying the dates of the general debate, decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 suggesting a voluntary guideline of 20 minutes for statements in the general debate and decided to recommend that the procedures outlined in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's memorandum should also apply during the fifty-sixth session.*

10. **The Chairman** urged representatives, in view of the large number of speakers already inscribed on the list of speakers in the general debate, to take the floor in the order in which they appeared on the list. Those

Items 1 to 6

30. **The Chairman** said that, since items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with, he took it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

31. *It was so agreed.*

Items 7 to 20

32. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 7 to 20 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 21 to 32

33. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 6 of the addendum to the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/BUR/56/1/Add.1). He said that a new item 21, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations" should be inserted after item 20, with items 21 to 32 becoming sub-items (a) to (l) of the new item. He took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the new item 21 with sub-items (a) to (l) in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session. Items 21 to 32 would be deleted and subsequent items renumbered accordingly.

34. *It was so decided.*

Items 33 to 55

35. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 33 to 55 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 56

36. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 56 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 57

37. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 57 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 58 to 62

38. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 58 to 62 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 63

39. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 63 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 64

40. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 64 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 65

41. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 65 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 66

42. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 66 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 67

43. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 67 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

item 68

44. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 68 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 69 to 72

45. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 69 to 72 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 73

46. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 73 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 74

47. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 74 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 75 to 95

48. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 75 to 95 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 96 to 105

49. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 96 to 105 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 106

50. **Mr. Ould Deddach** (Mauritania) said that, following consultations with Madagascar and France, his delegation wished to propose that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" should be deferred to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions of those two countries on the issue.

51. **Mr. Seixas da Costa** (Portugal) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Mauritania.

52. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Items 107 to 119

53. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 107 to 119 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 120 to 131

54. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 120 to 131 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 132 to 170

55. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 132 to 170 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Items 171 to 179

56. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 171 to 179 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 180

57. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 180 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 181

58. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 181 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 182

59. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 182 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 183

60. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 183, entitled "Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict", had been proposed by Kuwait (A/56/143) and that the representative of Kuwait had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

61. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait) took a place at the Committee table.*

62. **Mr. Al-Awdi** (Kuwait) said that military aggression caused severe harm to the environment, which must be preserved for succeeding generations. The people of Kuwait, for example, were still suffering from the effects of the damage done to the environment during the Gulf War. Kuwait was therefore proposing that an "International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict" be observed each year on 6 November. He hoped that the debate on the inclusion of the item in the agenda would not be politicized.

63. *Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait) withdrew.*

64. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 183 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for that meeting.

Paragraphs 19 to 21 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

11. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 dealing with explanations of vote and the right of reply. It also decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.*

12. *The Committee further decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241 and to paragraph 23 of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of that resolution (A/52/855), which stated that, since in plenary meetings the length of statements in debates other than the general debate averaged eight minutes, the General Assembly might wish to review the recommendation of a 15-minute limit contained in paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241.*

13. *The Committee further decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to rules 72 and 114 of its rules of procedure and to paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees.*

Paragraph 22 (Records of meetings)

14. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fifty-sixth session.*

Paragraph 23 (Seating arrangements)

15. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 24 (Concluding statements)

16. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for the full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401, whereby concluding statements could be made only by presiding officers.*

Paragraphs 25-28 (Resolutions)

17. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401 and to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.*

Paragraphs 29-31 (Documentation)

18. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401, to the annex to its decision 55/488 reiterating that "the terms 'takes note of' and 'notes' are neutral terms that constitute neither approval nor disapproval", to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraph 5 of section C of its resolution 54/248 emphasizing that documents must be available in accordance with the six-week rule for simultaneous distribution in the six official languages of the General Assembly.*

19. *The Committee also decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of the annex to its resolution 51/241 appealing to all bodies to exercise restraint in requesting new reports and to consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, to paragraph 15 of the annex to its resolution 55/285 on the need for Member States to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports and to paragraph 17 of the annex to its resolution 55/285 stating that Member States and entities of the United Nations system should submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines.*

Paragraphs 32 to 36 (Questions related to the programme budget)

20. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions referred to in paragraphs 32 and 33, to the observations contained in paragraphs 34 and 35 and to paragraph 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 37 and 38 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

21. *The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, including a 15-minute limit on statements.*

Paragraphs 39 and 40 (Special conferences)

22. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 41 and 42 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

23. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 30 August 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/56/322) informing him that the Committee had recommended that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-sixth session, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services. The General Assembly, at its second plenary meeting on 13 September 2001, had authorized the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to meet during the main part of its fifty-sixth session. Authorization to meet was sought, in addition, for the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and the resumed first session of the Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

24. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to meet and the resumed first session of the Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee on the Second World Assembly on Ageing to be held during the main part of the fifty-sixth session.*

25. *The Committee further decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 42 of the Secretary-General's memorandum recalling that, in the light of paragraph 7 of resolution 55/245 B, a resumed third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development would be held from 15 to 19 October 2001.*

Section III: Adoption of the agenda (A/56/150 and 200)

Paragraph 43

26. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except insofar as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

Paragraph 44 to 44 ter (Rationalization of General Assembly procedures)

27. *The Committee took note of the suggestions made in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 23 to 26 of the annex to resolution 51/241. It also decided to take note of the provisions referred to in paragraph 44 bis whereby all cooperation items would be clustered under an item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations" and of the provisions referred to in paragraph 44 ter concerning the biennialization of certain items.*

Paragraphs 45 and 46 (Inclusion of items)

Items 180, 182, 185, 186 and 190

28. **The Chairman** noted that the Secretary-General, in paragraph 45 of his memorandum, drew attention to decision 49/426 whereby the Assembly had decided that the granting of observer status should in future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to the Assembly. Decision 49/426 would be of relevance for the consideration of the inclusion of items 180, 182, 185, 186 and 190.

29. *The Committee took note of paragraph 45.*

Item 184

65. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 184, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum", had been proposed by Kiribati (A/56/144) and that the representative of Nauru had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

66. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Clodumar (Nauru) took a place at the Committee table.*

67. **Mr. Clodumar** (Nauru) said that he was speaking on behalf of the States members of the Pacific Islands Forum that were Members of the United Nations, namely, Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, as well as on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum. The inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would provide a very useful opportunity for consideration of the unique issues facing the States members of the Forum and of the important role of cooperation between the Forum and the United Nations in addressing those issues. Inclusion of the item would also ensure that relations between the Forum and the United Nations were on a par with those between the Organization and other regional groups. In addition, it would facilitate plans to integrate existing multi-sectoral cooperation between the United Nations and members of the Forum, provide a focal point for efforts to coordinate the regional activities of the different components of the United Nations system and ensure that the views of the Forum's members were heard by all States Members of the Organization.

68. The customary way of life of the peoples of the Pacific faced real challenges, as island nations sought to balance traditional and colonial forms of governance in an increasingly globalized age. Recent events in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Bougainville highlighted some of the problems that arose when traditional governance systems were faced with dramatic and complex changes, including the changes required by trade liberalization and the adverse impact of climate change and rising sea levels. Close cooperation with the United Nations would therefore continue to be an important part of the efforts of the members of the Forum to address those challenges.

69. *Mr. Clodumar (Nauru) withdrew.*

70. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 184 in the agenda as sub-item (m) of the new item on cooperation.*

Item 185

71. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 185, entitled "Observer status for the International Hydrographic Organization in the General Assembly", had been proposed by Monaco (A/56/145) and that the representatives of Hungary, Monaco and Portugal had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

72. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Erdos (Hungary), Mr. Boisson (Monaco) and Mr. Seixas da Costa (Portugal) took places at the Committee table.*

73. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Italy had asked to participate in the discussion of item 185. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

74. *It was so decided.*

75. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy) took a place at the Committee table.*

76. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) was a consultative and technical intergovernmental organization established by a Convention signed at Monaco on 3 May 1967. The Convention resulted from the desire of the participating Governments to pursue on an intergovernmental basis their cooperation in hydrography. The two principal bodies of IHO were the International Hydrographic Conference, which was composed of representatives of the Governments of member States, and the International Hydrographic Bureau, which was responsible for carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the Convention or the Conference. The Organization routinely encouraged the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance agreements while endeavouring to establish even closer relations with the international finance institutions. By allowing it to participate in the sessions of the General Assembly, observer status would enable IHO to work more closely with the United Nations programmes and institutions with a view to increasing cooperation and coordination in various marine science activities and to develop its training and capacity-building activities.

77. **Mr. Florent** (France), supported by **Ms. Borzi Cornacchia** (Italy), **Mr. Gounaris** (Greece), **Mr. Erdos** (Hungary) and **Mr. Seixas da Costa** (Portugal), said that his delegation was in favour of the proposal for the inclusion of the item in the agenda. Greater coordination and cooperation between IHO and the United Nations would strengthen technical assistance activities in the field of hydrography throughout the world.

78. *Mr. Boisson (Monaco), Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy), Mr. Erdos (Hungary) and Mr. Seixas da Costa (Portugal) withdrew.*

79. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 185 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 186

80. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 186, entitled "Observer status for the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States in the General Assembly", had been proposed by the Sudan (A/56/191) and that the representative of the Sudan had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

81. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Erwa (Sudan) took a place at the Committee table.*

82. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Burkina Faso and Nigeria had asked to participate in the discussion of item 186. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the requests.

83. *It was so decided.*

84. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) and Mr. Osio (Nigeria) took places at the Committee table.*

85. **Mr. Erwa** (Sudan) said that observer status for the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States in the General Assembly would facilitate the economic and development efforts of the members of the Community and thereby help to achieve the purposes and principles of the Organization in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

86. **Mr. Kafando**, supported by **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria) and **Mr. Yahya** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), said that the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and the United Nations shared the same goals of improving the standard of living and promoting the economic development of peoples. Indeed the impact of the Community's activities was felt far beyond the Sahelo-Saharan region. Cooperation with the United Nations would, moreover, benefit both bodies. He therefore supported the proposal for the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

87. *Mr. Erwa (Sudan), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) and Mr. Osio (Nigeria) withdrew.*

88. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 186 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

89. **The Chairman** said that item 187, entitled "International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings", had been proposed by France and Germany (A/56/192), and that the representative of Germany had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

90. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Schumacher (Germany) took a place at the Committee table.*

91. **Mr. Schumacher** (Germany) said that announcements by laboratories and researchers of the intention to proceed in the near future with reproductive cloning of human beings posed serious problems for human dignity and identity and had rightfully met with widespread concern and condemnation. France and Germany shared that concern and had therefore proposed an initiative to undertake negotiations on an international legal instrument banning the reproductive cloning of human beings. Such negotiations must be open to all States and to the participation of specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). They acknowledged the important work that had been undertaken in that field by other organizations, UNESCO in particular. Article 11 of the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, unanimously adopted by UNESCO and endorsed by the General Assembly, stated that practices which were contrary to human dignity, such as reproductive cloning of human beings, should not be permitted. The time had now come to translate that declaration into a legally binding norm.

92. *Mr. Schumacher (Germany) withdrew.*

93. **Mr. Doutriaux** (France) said that France and Germany had examined a number of possible options and had determined that the General Assembly was the appropriate venue for such an initiative in view of the multidisciplinary nature of the issue, all aspects of which would not be covered by any other major agency. The Sixth Committee, and more specifically, a specialized working group under its aegis, would be the most appropriate body to carry it forward.

94. France and Germany suggested that the negotiations should proceed in two phases: first, the specialized working group should establish the terms of reference of the negotiations, on the understanding that the second phase, negotiations on the draft convention, would not begin until such time as the terms of reference had been approved by the General Assembly. Although the challenge of establishing an international legal instrument banning human reproductive cloning was an urgent one, France and Germany believed that a gradual approach was best, so that everyone could come to understand the complex legal and scientific nature of the question. Negotiations properly prepared with the contributions of experts would best serve the purpose of establishing a good convention. In order to attain that goal, the contribution of all would be indispensable.

95. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Senegal had asked to participate in the discussion of item 187. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

96. *It was so decided.*

97. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Fall (Senegal) took a place at the Committee table.*

98. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that his delegation welcomed the French and German initiative to include the item on the agenda. Those delegations had amply examined considerations of a moral, ethical, legal, technical, diplomatic and procedural nature. He wished to add that the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-second summit, held in Yaounde in 1996, had adopted a resolution on bioethics and development, which examined those same issues.

99. *Mr. Fall (Senegal) withdrew.*

100. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Monaco had asked to participate in the discussion of item 187. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

101. *It was so decided.*

102. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Boisson (Monaco) took a place at the Committee table.*

103. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that the Government of the Principality of Monaco supported the inclusion of the item on the agenda. For ethical, moral and scientific reasons, it was absolutely crucial for the international community to take up the issue, which affected the dignity of human beings. The previous year, the Principality of Monaco had hosted a colloquium sponsored by UNESCO that had discussed certain elements of the question: the conclusions could perhaps be distributed to interested delegations.

104. *Mr. Boisson (Monaco) withdrew.*

105. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 187 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 188

106. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to begin its consideration of item 188, entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected" (A/56/193 and Add.1-3).

107. He informed members that a letter he had received from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay dated 6 September 2001 and addressed to the Secretary-General had been inadvertently issued as document A/56/193/Add.2. The addendum had been withdrawn, and the letter would be reissued as document A/56/355.

108. The representative of the Gambia had asked to participate in the discussion of item 188 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

109. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Baldeh (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.*

110. **Ms. Baldeh** (Gambia) said she wished to express her delegation's deepest sympathy to the United States and its people as they sought to come to terms with the tragic events of 11 September 2001.

111. On behalf of Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominica, the Gambia, El Salvador, Malawi, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, and Tuvalu, she requested the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

112. Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum was attached to document A/56/193 as annex I, and a draft resolution as annex II. The sponsors had requested the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda for the reasons outlined in the explanatory memorandum. The draft resolution proposed the establishment of a working group of the General Assembly with the mandate of examining thoroughly the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan with a view to ensuring the representation of its 23 million people at the United Nations.

113. In October 1971, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI), it had decided to give the China seat to the People's Republic of China, but had failed to address the issue of legitimate representation for the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan. The People's Republic of China had exercised no control whatever over the Republic of China on Taiwan since 1949, and the two countries had developed their own political systems, social values and foreign relations. Their case was indeed an exceptional one, since each country could only speak for and represent the people of its own jurisdiction.

114. The Republic of China on Taiwan was a democratic country and a constructive, responsible member of the international community committed to upholding international legal norms. Economically and technologically, its record was impressive, and it was active in the fields of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. It had provided disaster relief to the People's Republic of China, had developed a policy of trade, postal and shipping links with that country and was investing massively in it, particularly in the area of technology.

115. She hoped that the United Nations would serve as a forum to promote mutual understanding and good will between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan and would focus attention on reconciliation efforts. In the era of globalization, a time for inclusion rather than exclusion, a country like the Republic of China on Taiwan, which had a lot to offer, should not be left behind. The United Nations should give careful consideration to the question of the Republic of China on Taiwan, since its peopie had a legitimate right to participate in the activities of the Organization. It was also in the collective interest to press for a peaceful resolution of the differences between the two countries, a matter which had serious implications for that part of the world. The emphasis must be placed on cooperation rather than confrontation.

116. *Ms. Baldeh (Gambia) withdrew.*

117. **The Chairman** said that a number of non-member sponsors had asked to participate in the discussion of that item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure. In addition, there were a number of non-member non-sponsors who had asked to participate. As he saw no objection, he took it that members agreed to waive rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

118. *It was so decided.*

119. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bazel (Afghanistan), Mr. Cappagli (Argentina), Mr. Wang Yingfan (China), Mr. Requeijo Guam (Cuba), Mr. Kim Yong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Padilla Tonos (Dominican Republic), Ms. Elliott (Guyana), Mr. Mangoaela (Lesotho), Mr. Gansukh (Mongolia), Mr. Clodumar (Nauru), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka), Mr. Erwa (Sudan), and Mr. Nhleko (Swaziland) took places at the Committee table.*

120. **Mr. Wang** Yingfan (China) said that his delegation firmly opposed the inclusion of item 188 and hoped that the General Committee would continue to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter and to observe General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

121. There was only one China in the world, and Taiwan had been an inseparable part of China's territory since ancient times. It was an indisputable fact that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate Government representing the whole of China. By adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI) in 1971, the General Assembly had decided once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation at the United Nations. As a part of China, Taiwan was not eligible to

participate under any name or any pretext in the work or activities of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. To raise in whatever form the issue of Taiwan's participation constituted a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter and of the pertinent resolution.

122. His delegation appreciated the position of the vast majority of Member States, which had abided by the "one-China" principle, had opposed Taiwan's participation in international organizations composed of sovereign States and had stood against the inclusion of the issue of Taiwan's so-called participation in the United Nations in the agenda of the General Assembly.

123. **Mr. Ferreira** (Sao Tome and Principe) said that membership in the United Nations was a right and not a privilege, and that the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan should not be denied that right. The Republic of China on Taiwan was a dynamic member of the international community, and belonged to the family of democratic States that contributed to international security, sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been the main development partner of Sao Tome and Principe, a growing partnership that had produced positive economic and social effects in his country.

124. The Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, countries with much in common, must achieve understanding and cooperation while respecting each other's sovereignty and integrity. Using force or threatening to use force to seize the Republic of China on Taiwan endangered peace and security and violated the principles of the Charter: in that regard, recent signs of an arms race across the Taiwan Strait should be of deep concern to all.

125. Taking the view that Member States should not interfere in the internal affairs of other Member States reflected a failure to understand the lessons of East Timor and other recent humanitarian disasters. While recognizing the difficulties of the issue, his Government felt obliged, under the Charter, to work towards returning the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations.

126. **Mr. Nhleko** (Swaziland) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan had existed as a sovereign State since 1912 and had had effective, exclusive control over the island since 1949. As such, it had obligations to fulfil but could not do so in its current situation. The United Nations had offered solace to a number of countries in a similar situation and should do the same for the Republic of China on Taiwan.

127. In keeping with this spirit of the twenty-first century, the Republic of China on Taiwan had made an effort to improve relations with the People's Republic of China. The participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in United Nations activities would help the Organization to uphold the principle of universality, achieve its goal of preventive diplomacy and facilitate reconciliation across the Taiwan Strait and the peace process in the region. To that end, his delegation welcomed the commitment of President Chen Shuibian to a new era of reconciliation. The Republic of China on Taiwan fulfilled all the obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, had a dynamic economy and a fully fledged democracy, was willing to abide by all United Nations human rights treaties and was pursuing various United Nations goals, including the eradication of poverty and disease abroad and environmental protection. His Government therefore appealed to the General Committee to do right by the Republic of China on Taiwan.

128. **Mr. Mangoaela** (Lesotho) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item. Clearly, most delegations believed that Taiwan was part of China, and two Chinas could not be represented at the United Nations. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the question of China's representation to the United Nations and its agencies and its participation in their activities. Since there had been no change in the status quo, there was no need to discuss the issue.

129. **Mr. Clodumar** (Nauru) expressed his delegation's support for the inclusion of the proposed supplementary item. The Republic of China on Taiwan had a defined territory, a permanent population and a sovereign Government that was democratically elected and had the capacity to enter into relations with other States. By no stretch of the imagination was it a province of the People's Republic of China, which had never exercised any control over it.

130. In the past 30 years, Taiwan had grown to be the forty-sixth largest country in terms of population, the seventeenth largest economy and the fifteenth largest trading nation; it would probably be a Group A country for its assessed contributions to the United Nations regular and peacekeeping budgets. Consistent with the

provisions of Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, the Republic of China on Taiwan was a peace-loving State which had on many occasions declared its unconditional acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter and was politically and economically willing and able to carry out its obligations. It was incomprehensible that certain Member States should obstruct its admission to the United Nations, particularly developing countries which had benefited economically and socially from over $200 million in Taiwan's annual contributions to regional development programmes, including those of the Asian Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Republic of China on Taiwan had also provided disaster relief to countries the world over, including the People's Republic of China.

131. The continued exclusion of the Republic of China on Taiwan from international conventions and agreements, regional and subregional bodies affiliated with the United Nations and specialized bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), would have disastrous consequences on its economy and people in the medium and long term. For example, the Republic of China on Taiwan, one of the six largest high-sea fishing countries in the world, had been excluded from the six consultative meetings on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, even though the Agreement explicitly stated that countries not abiding by it would be subject to international boycott.

132. Similarly, if the Republic of China on Taiwan could not accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, it would be subject to trade embargoes and banned from importing chemicals and equipment for commercial use, representing a direct loss of about US$ 1.8 billion to the country's chemical industry. At the WHO/UNICEF meeting on vaccine supply planning and child immunization policies for the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan, held in November 1993, Taiwan's pledge of US$ 200,000 in vaccines had been rejected because it was not a member of the United Nations or of the agencies in question, and Taiwan had been denied observer status in the WHO Assembly on five occasions. Denied assistance by a Geneva-based public health alliance managed by WHO, the Republic of China on Taiwan had lost 80 children during a 1998 enterovirus outbreak on the island. His delegation therefore urged the inclusion of the supplementary item in order to enable Member States to consider the draft resolution contained in annex II of document A/56/193. He noted that the Republic of China on Taiwan intended to contribute substantial resources to the multilateral development programmes of the United Nations specialized agencies for the least developed and developing countries and to various special-purpose funds, including the Global AIDS and Health Fund.

133. **Ms. Elliott** (Guyana) said that her delegation was strongly opposed to the inclusion of the supplementary item. Her Government was of the firm view that there was only one China, namely, the People's Republic of China, and it recognized Taiwan as an integral part of China. Since it had established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1972, Guyana had supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and, over the years, had urged other international and regional organizations to be guided by the provisions of the resolution as well. Any consideration of Taiwan's separate participation within the United Nations must be seen as a challenge to the integrity of earlier decisions taken by the Organization.

134. **Mr. Erwa** (Sudan) said that disregard for both the facts and a General Assembly resolution constituted a dangerous precedent which should be avoided. In its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had explicitly and unambiguously established the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations and declared that the restoration of the lawful rights of its people was essential for the protection of the Charter of the United Nations. Consistent with its unstinting position of previous years, his delegation categorically rejected the inclusion of the supplementary item or Taiwan's participation in any form in the work of the Organization, since there was only one China, of which Taiwan was an indivisible and integral part. Inclusion of the supplementary item would be contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United

Nations. It would be a blatant violation of the relevant General Assembly resolution and constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. He trusted that, as in previous years, the request would be rejected by the majority of General Committee members.

135. **Mr. Kim Yong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the only lawful Government representing China in the United Nations was the People's Republic of China, and that Taiwan was an inseparable part of Chinese territory. That had already been confirmed by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The proposed membership of Taiwan in the United Nations therefore constituted a violation of both that resolution and the Charter, and was contrary to the will of the Chinese people to reunify the country. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the supplementary item.

136. **Mr. Bazel** (Afghanistan) said that, for decades, his delegation had affirmed that there was only one China and that Taiwan was a province of it. Fortunately, most delegations recognized that, under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), Taiwan, as a part of China, was not eligible for membership in the United Nations or its specialized agencies. It was of paramount importance to ensure that the supplementary item was not included.

137. **Mr. de Saram** (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation's position was and had always been that there was only one China, namely, the People's Republic of China. Since General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) entrusted the representation of all of China to the People's Republic of China, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the supplementary item.

138. **Mr. Padilla Tonos** (Dominican Republic) said he supported the request for the inclusion of the supplementary item out of respect for the fundamental right of Taiwan's 23 million inhabitants to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations. The Organization should recognize that the Republic of China on Taiwan had the same rights as other States.

139. **Mr. Requeijo Guam** (Cuba) said that, since 1993, the request for inclusion of an item on Taiwan had been consistently rejected by the General Committee. Cuba's position was well known: inclusion of a supplementary item was not consistent with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had justly and definitively established the representation of China to the United Nations by restoring the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China. The resolution clearly established the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only representative to the United Nations. His delegation hailed the desire of the People's Republic of China to promote a solution to the question of Taiwan and its proposals aimed at guaranteeing the protection of Taiwan's interests.

140. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia) said that there was no compelling reason for inclusion of the supplementary item, since it was well known that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of the representation of the Chinese people and Government. The inclusion of a supplementary item would be contrary not only to the political reality but also to the principled decision taken by the General Assembly in 1971.

141. **Mr. Cappagli** (Argentina) said that, in adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI), the United Nations had demonstrated that the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China was essential for the protection of the Charter of the United Nations. The Organization had resolved the question of the representation of China 30 years earlier by recognizing the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council. Argentina and the People's Republic of China had normalized their diplomatic relations through the adoption of a joint communiqué in 1972, in which the Argentine Government had recognized the authorities of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of the Government of China and considered Taiwan as an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. Thus, Argentina could not support the request to include an item in the agenda on Taiwan's admission to the United Nations. His delegation was strongly convinced that inclusion of the supplementary item would violate one of the core principles of the United Nations, namely, the territorial integrity of Member States. Argentina had strongly defended that norm, enshrined in the Charter and various Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV), and would continue to do so. His delegation was therefore opposed to including the supplementary item.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/56/SR.2

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Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 September 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Han Seung-soo (President of the General Assembly)	(Republic of Korea)
later:	Mr. Xydas (Vice-Chairman)	(Greece)
later:	Mr. Balzan (Vice-Chairman)	(Malta)

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Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

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01-53754 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1)

Section III: Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Paragraphs 45 and 46 (Inclusion of items) (*continued*)

Item 188 (*continued*)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of item 188, entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its 23 million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected".

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Mangueira (Angola), Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Tsering (Bhutan), Mr. Mourão (Brazil), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Nteturuye (Burundi), Mr. Laotegguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Streeter (Chile), Mr. Makayat-Safonesse (Congo), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Richards (Dominica), Mr. Roshdy (Egypt), Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Aldouri (Iraq), Ms. Murnaghan (Ireland), Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy), Mr. Smagulov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Osode (Liberia), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Maïga (Mali), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gokool (Mauritius), Mr. Navarrete (Mexico), Mr. Arrouchi (Morocco), Mr. Tómas (Mozambique), Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Theron (Namibia), Mr. Osio (Nigeria), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Silas (Palau), Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama), Mr. Botnaru (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Richardson (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ferriai (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Fall (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), Mr. Gómez-Acebo (Spain), Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Ismoilov (Tajikistan), Mr. Tekaya (Tunisia), Mr. Enelesopoaga (Tuvalu), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Ibragimov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Alcalay (Venezuela), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Musambachime (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) took places at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) said that the Chinese people on the mainland and on Taiwan had a common history and ancestry and a shared culture. However, the claim that the Republic of China on Taiwan was a province of the People's Republic of China defied history, logic and reality. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been a founding member of the United Nations in 1945, a member of the Security Council and the General Assembly and had represented all of China until 1971, when, as a result of tactics of cold war diplomacy, its seat had been unjustly taken away. His delegation was pleading for redress and requesting respect for the fundamental right of the 23 million people of Taiwan to participate in the work of the international community.

4. The Republic of China on Taiwan had become a democratic country with its own political, social and economic institutions. No one was suggesting that the People's Republic of China should be removed from the United Nations; rather, the two countries should continue to co-exist, as they had done for the past 31 years. They should return to high-level dialogue on areas where they could unite, for example, trade, cultural exchange and tourism.

5. **Mr. Relang** (Marshall Islands) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda. It did not understand how Taiwan, which was a successful and responsible member of the international community, a founding member of the Organization, and a contributor to the development of many other countries, could be kept outside the gates of the world's paramount international organization.

6. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that his delegation joined with others in supporting the inclusion of the item. In its view, the Republic of China on Taiwan was a State in the fullest sense of international law. It should be allowed to return, as it fulfilled all the conditions imposed under the Charter. Numbering among the major world economies, Taiwan had made a significant contribution to development funds and projects throughout its own region and the world.

7. The United Nations had received divided nations, for example Germany, Yemen and currently Korea, among its membership in the past. The admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations

should, with the support of the international community, ease tensions on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, ensure peace and stability in the South-East Asian region and enhance collective security in a globalized world. In turn, through its experience, technological know-how and capital, Taiwan would have much to contribute to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

8. **Mr. Laotegguelnodji** (Chad) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China had co-existed for many years, each Government exercising sovereignty in its own territory. In the light of that reality, the United Nations must see that justice was done for the 23 million people who were currently excluded from all United Nations initiatives by providing representation for the Republic of China on Taiwan. The only way to ensure that outcome was to include the item in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.

9. **Ms. Ferriai** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that her delegation favoured inclusion of the item. Her Government had maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan for 20 years, and its support for Taiwan did not diminish its esteem for the People's Republic of China.

10. The Republic of China on Taiwan had an impressive record of political and economic development, and the United Nations could not afford to exclude from its membership a country with such a high level of achievement. The United Nations could never be whole or complete until Taiwan was admitted to membership.

11. **Mr. Enelesopoaga** (Tuvalu) said it was ironic that, despite a continuing record of democracy and good governance which had culminated in democratic elections a year earlier, the Republic of China on Taiwan was still excluded from membership in the United Nations and its agencies. It was also disappointing that no real effort had been made to resolve the issue. His delegation favoured inclusion of the item and hoped that the United Nations could be used as a framework for collaboration between the countries on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait in order to resolve the issue.

12. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) said that the General Committee was considering the question of the inclusion of the item regarding the Republic of China on Taiwan for the sixth consecutive year, and her delegation hoped that the call for justice and equality for those 23 million people would no longer be ignored. The goodwill gestures made by the Republic of China on Taiwan, coupled with the ongoing reforms in the People's Republic of China, augured well for the pursuit of the ultimate goal of reconciliation and reunification between those two countries. The United Nations must try to narrow the political divide between them, and, pending the achievement of the ultimate goal of reunification, the Republic of China on Taiwan should be allowed to participate in the work of the Organization. Finally, her delegation suggested the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the relevant issues and come to some resolution.

13. **Mr. Moushoutas** (Cyprus) said that his delegation was not in favour of the inclusion of the proposed agenda item because Cyprus had always supported the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

14. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan, with its democratic Government and defined territory, continued to champion the founding principles of the United Nations, despite its exclusion from the Organization. He urged the international community to heed the claims of 23 million people who clamoured to be heard. If it did not, the United Nations could not purport to represent the whole world. Item 188 ought to be included in the agenda, in the interests of universality.

15. *Mr. Xydas (Greece), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

16. **Mr. Arrouchi** (Morocco) opposed the inclusion of the agenda item. The matter had already been settled under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). In the light of his country's support for the principles of territorial integrity and national unity, and in the absence of any new elements, the matter should not be reconsidered.

17. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan was restricted to the margins of international life, unable to participate in the activities of the United Nations, of which it was a founding member. It had all the characteristics of a sovereign State, contributed to the global economy and had been deemed worthy to be a member of the World Trade Organization. In championing its cause, his

delegation was by no means opposed to any other country, nor was it interfering in other countries' internal affairs; it merely sought justice. The General Assembly should establish a working group with a mandate to consider the issue and to recommend appropriate solutions. Closer ties between the parties with increased trade and investment, were also desirable. He recalled that the United Nations Millennium Declaration had called for cooperation, solidarity and fraternity among States and peoples. The General Assembly should assist that process by including the proposed agenda item.

18. **Mr. Silas** (Palau) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan deserved a seat in the United Nations, in view of its promotion of global peace and prosperity and its generosity with humanitarian, financial and technical assistance which contributed greatly to the world's social, political and economic stability. If that alone were not enough, the 23 million inhabitants of the country, with their democratic Government, had the fundamental right, under Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, to participate in the work of the Organization. Exclusion was, indeed, counter to the principles of the Charter. Item 188 should be included in the agenda.

19. **Mr. Loizada** (Paraguay), after drawing attention to the correction contained in document A/56/193/Add.2, said that his delegation had recently sent the Secretary-General a letter for distribution, setting out its views. Although the issue should be settled by the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China through dialogue, in a spirit of reconciliation, which could lead to a just and equitable agreement, the United Nations could not, under its Charter, shirk its duty to examine the issue, to which it could make a most important contribution. The proposed item should be included in the agenda.

20. **Mr. Meléndez-Barahona** (El Salvador) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted in the context of the cold war. It had not, however, resolved the question of the representation and participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the structure of the United Nations, even though many new nations had been admitted. The Republic, a founding member of the Organization, merely wished to exercise its rights and resume the position denied it over the past three decades.

21. The exclusion of the Republic of China was of a political rather than a legal nature. It was, however, clear from the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the Republic had the right to be represented within the United Nations. His delegation would therefore support the inclusion of agenda item 188, until the differences existing between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait had been peacefully resolved.

22. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) said that her delegation supported the "one-China" policy on both political and moral grounds. The policy had been almost unanimously supported within the General Assembly, as indicated by the number of times proposals to the contrary had been rejected. She urged the two sides to work towards unity rather than perpetuating the existing hostility. In the wider interests of prosperity and security, they should rediscover the bonds of brotherhood. The proposed agenda item should be rejected.

23. **Ms. Morgan-Moss** (Panama) said that the initiative to include the issue in the agenda should not be regarded as seeking to deny the People's Republic of China its seat in the United Nations or to interfere in the private debate of the Chinese people. The aim was simply to reconsider the situation in a changed world.

24. A number of States had made bilateral and multilateral agreements with the Republic of China on Taiwan on such issues as development finance or the fight against money-laundering. The Republic had signed many international human rights agreements and continued to observe their provisions. The two sides should work to eliminate their differences, in accordance with the democratic and humanitarian practices that were the foundation of civilized coexistence. Meanwhile, the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan should have the benefit of participation in the United Nations, which could, indeed, help in the work of reconciliation, as it had in Germany and continued to do in Korea. It was imperative that Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations should be applied.

25. **Ms. Thunyani** (Malawi) said that the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan, a peace-loving member of the international community, sought dignity, which had become a universally accepted human right. Yet they were excluded not only from the United Nations and its agencies but from nearly every

intergovernmental organization. The United Nations was committed, under its Charter, to developing friendly relations among nations on the basis of equal rights and self-determination and to achieving international cooperation. Relations between the countries on either side of the Taiwan Strait remained strained; there was, however, reason to hope that they could erase decades of hostility and engender lasting reconciliation. The United Nations could — and, indeed, must — serve as a forum for such reconciliation. The question of Taiwan's readmission to the United Nations should therefore be seriously considered.

26. **Mr. Manele** (Solomon Islands) said that the free and democratic Republic of China on Taiwan, which was home to 23 million people, had been excluded not only from the United Nations but also from nearly every other intergovernmental organization, even though it abided by international standards and obligations. That exclusion was unjust. To argue that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had solved the issue of Chinese representation once and for all was a denial of current realities. The Republic of China had, over the past 50 years, developed its own political system, social values and foreign relations. Its democratically elected Government had complete jurisdiction over its people and was the sole legitimate entity that could represent the interests of its people in the United Nations. He did not, however, mean to call into question the membership of the People's Republic of China.

27. The exclusion of the Republic of China was a contradiction of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles and values of which the Republic of China continued to incorporate in its domestic legislation. It had endorsed the two major international human rights covenants, was currently drafting a basic law on the guarantee of human rights and had shared with many countries the benefits of its outstanding achievements in economic development, agriculture, global trade and information and communications technology. It had also played an active role in humanitarian crises, assisting countries that had suffered from natural disasters, including some that spoke against its efforts to join the United Nations system.

28. The United Nations should enable the Republic of China on Taiwan to join the international community in overcoming the ills facing humanity. Membership of the United Nations would facilitate dialogue between the Republic and the People's Republic of China and provide the basis for lasting reconciliation. Parity and mutual respect, through the United Nations, must be the foundation for trust and confidence.

29. **Mr. Mwakawago** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there was no compelling reason to undermine the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), particularly at a time when the call for respect for international law was being heard loud and clear. The people of China were capable of handling their own internal problems.

30. **Mr. Ismoilov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation's support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international legal status of the People's Republic of China, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the bilateral agreements between the two States, remained unchanged. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was its sole legitimate representative. The issue had been settled by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI) and there was no need to revisit the matter. His delegation could not therefore support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

31. **Mr. Aldouri** (Iraq) said he regretted that yet another attempt had been made to include the proposed item in the agenda. It was clear that, as in the past, an overwhelming majority of Member States endorsed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Progress in the economic, financial or social sphere did not give a province the right to secession, nor did distance from the mother country confer a right to sovereignty or membership in the United Nations. It was dangerous to encourage such a trend, which could have an impact on the Organization and on the international community as a whole. He therefore joined those who opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth, or any subsequent, session of the General Assembly.

32. **Mr. Krokhmal** (Ukraine) said that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China and that Taiwan was an integral part of China. The question of representation had been resolved by the General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

33. **Mr. Sevilla Somoza** (Nicaragua) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan met the criteria for

statehood established under international law and maintained diplomatic relations with more than 30 nations. It had the world's seventeenth largest economy and a population of over 23 million; moreover, in its most recent democratic elections, an opposition candidate had been elected President for the first time in the island's 50-year history. Taiwan was active in its cooperation with many developing countries and in the humanitarian assistance activities of the major international organizations. Its Government respected the international norms of human rights and had recently ratified the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

34. It was therefore unjust to deny it membership in the United Nations for reasons that dated from the cold war and were no longer valid. By granting Member status to the Republic of China on Taiwan, the United Nations would foster dialogue between the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait with a view to a peaceful, civilized solution to the conflict. He therefore supported the proposal to establish a working group to consider the matter in depth.

35. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted by a large majority. The inclusion of item 188 in the agenda would therefore be contrary to practice and would not promote the goals shared by all its Members.

36. **Mr. Navarrete** (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and that the inclusion of the proposed item would be incompatible with the Organization's interests. There were no grounds for questioning the validity of resolution 2758 (XXVI), and consequently the proposed item should not be included in the agenda.

37. **Mr. Van Schalkwyk** (South Africa) said that on 1 January 1998, South Africa had established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and had ended its official relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, thereby giving notice that it supported the "one-China" principle. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be resolved by the Chinese people themselves. His delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

38. **Mr. Gokool** (Mauritius) said that there was only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government of all of China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled once and for all with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Taiwan was not eligible to participate in the work of the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, under any name whatsoever. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

39. **Mr. Hasmy** (Malaysia) said that the issue of China's representation to the United Nations had been resolved once and for all with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation could not support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

40. **Mr. Hamzehei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. His Government endorsed the "one-China" principle and supported China's goal of national reunification. He was therefore opposed to inclusion of the proposed item.

41. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that his Government had recognized the People's Republic of China since the latter's inception in 1949. There was only one China, and Taiwan was an integral part of China. The General Assembly had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations with the adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI). The question was an internal affair of China. His delegation therefore strongly opposed the inclusion of the item.

42. **Mr. Mourão** (Brazil) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitely settled the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

43. **Mr. Dangue Réwaka** (Gabon) reiterated his Government's annual opposition to inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the General Assembly; such inclusion would be contrary to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and could only further complicate a problem that was widely recognized as territorial in nature.

44. **Mr. Gómez-Acebo** (Spain) said that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by previous resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 2758 (XXVI). The proposal should therefore be rejected.

45. **Mr. Florent** (France) said that his position was based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). As in previous years, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item. Attention should focus on the promotion of peaceful dialogue between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait.

46. **Ms. Murnaghan** (Ireland) said that her Government supported the "one-China" principle and considered that the issue of representation had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Her delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

47. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that Egypt had been the first Arab, African or Middle Eastern State to recognize the People's Republic of China, which was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. The issue had been resolved 30 years previously; thus, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

48. **Mr. Smagulov** (Kazakhstan) said that his Government fully supported the efforts of the People's Republic of China to defend its safety and territorial integrity. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate government of China, and Taiwan was an integral part thereof. The question of Taiwan was an internal affair to be settled by the Government and people of China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

49. **Mr. Eldon** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's position was clear and unchanged. He welcomed the advent of the democratic process on Taiwan and looked to the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resolve their differences peacefully. The proposal should therefore be rejected.

50. **Mr. Ibragimov** (Uzbekistan) said that his Government was committed to the letter, spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and was firmly convinced that the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of China to the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

51. **Mr. Al-Awdi** (Kuwait) said that the issue of Taiwan's membership in the United Nations had been decided by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Any attempt to include item 188 in the agenda of the General Assembly would contravene that resolution and would constitute a violation of the territorial integrity of China and interference in its internal affairs. There was only one China, one Chinese Government and one Chinese people. The proposed agenda item should therefore be rejected.

52. **Ms. Borzi Cornacchia** (Italy) said that by adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. In accordance with its respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, her Government believed that the People's Republic of China should seek a solution to the problem. She therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

53. **Mr. Mangueira** (Angola) said that the principle of States' unity and integrity, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be strongly defended in the case of China, as with any other country. His Government firmly believed that Taiwan was a part of China and that China was the legal representative of the Chinese people to the United Nations. He therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

54. **Mr. Streeter** (Chile) said that the issue had been settled in 1971, when resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted. His Government recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item.

55. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that he associated himself with those opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

56. **Mr. Ouch Borith** (Cambodia) said that in 1971, the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 2758 (XXVI) by an overwhelming majority, thereby recognizing the People's Republic of China as the legitimate representative of China to the United Nations and resolving the issue once and for all. His

Government had always supported the "one-China" principle and considered that the question of Taiwan was an internal matter for the People's Republic of China to settle. His delegation was strongly opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

57. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) said that there was only one China and that Taiwan was an integral part of Chinese territory. Thus, the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government recognized by his delegation. By adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China to the United Nations. He therefore opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

58. **Mr. Estévez-López** (Guatemala) said that his country, which maintained full diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, valued those relations and admired the progress achieved in Taiwan in all aspects, especially in the economic area. Owing to its concern about the situation of the 23 million inhabitants of Taiwan, whose aspirations for representation in multilateral bodies had not been met, Guatemala had supported the admission to the World Trade Organization of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan. His Government therefore understood the logic behind the initiative under consideration. At the same time, it was committed to the objective of China's reunification. In that regard, it reaffirmed its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and wholehearted support for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was to be hoped that the ongoing conversations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China would resolve the existing differences between the two parties. If the United Nations could in any way facilitate that process, his delegation would support the corresponding decisions.

59. **Mr. Theron** (Namibia) said that his country believed in the "one-China" principle and had consistently held the view that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China. Moreover, that position had been made clear by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI). Therefore, Namibia opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

60. **Mr. Balzan** (Malta) said that the General Assembly had already expressed itself comprehensively on the matter by adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI). Moreover, the measures being suggested by the proposed agenda item might well prove detrimental rather than conducive to reaching an amicable solution to the question of Taiwan within the "one-China" policy, which Malta had consistently supported. It continued to believe that respect for the "one-China" policy must form the basis of any action on the matter. Therefore, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

61. **Mr. Regmi** (Nepal) said that Nepal had consistently pursued a "one-China" policy and recognized the People's Republic of China as the only China. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of United Nations Members had decided, through resolution 2758 (XXVI), that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China in the United Nations. His delegation therefore could not support the proposal.

62. **Mr. Erdős** (Hungary) said that, since his country had consistently maintained the "one-China" principle in its international activities, it was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

63. *Mr. Balzan (Malta), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

64. **Mr. Makayat-Safonesse** (Congo) recalled his delegation's consistent position, based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China to the United Nations. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that the People's Republic of China wished to settle through peaceful means. Any other approach to that issue would be an interference in the internal affairs of China, which had always played and continued to play a key role in the international community in favour of the strengthening of peace and security and in the promotion of international cooperation. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

65. **Ms. Korneliouk** (Belarus) said that her delegation was in favour of the territorial integrity of China and against any attempt to establish two Chinas. There was only one China and the People's Republic of China was its only legal Government. Belarus therefore could not support the inclusion of the item.

66. **Mr. Kamara** (Sierra Leone) said that Sierra Leone supported the "one-China" policy and China's call for national reunification. Taiwan was an integral part of China and China's internal affairs should be left to the Chinese Government. His delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

67. **Mr. Tómas** (Mozambique) reiterated his delegation's support for the "one-China" policy. Taiwan was part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the lawful Government representing the whole of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the issue of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. His Government could not therefore support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

68. **Ms. Tohtohodjaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) reiterated her delegation's support of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Her delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item.

69. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria) said that his delegation recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved once and for all the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations, and Nigeria would continue to respect the collective wish of the Chinese people. In accordance with his country's "one-China" policy, he did not favour the inclusion of the item.

70. **Mr. Xydas** (Greece) said that his delegation had consistently held that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the legitimate representative of the Chinese people in the United Nations. Moreover, that issue had been decided by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation had not been convinced by the arguments put forward in favour of the proposed agenda item and therefore opposed its inclusion in the agenda.

71. **Mr. Tekaya** (Tunisia) reaffirmed his country's position that there was only one China and that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter of the representation of that country in the United Nations.

72. **Mr. Maïga** (Mali) said that the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Since Taiwan was an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China and could not participate in the work of the United Nations, his delegation was against the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

73. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's well-known position on the matter. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an inseparable part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government representing China. As General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

74. **Mr. Richards** (Dominica) said that, as a sponsor, Dominica believed that the Republic of China on Taiwan had earned the right to participate in the work of the United Nations. The sponsors were merely calling for justice for the democratically elected government of a sovereign State and for the application of the principle of universality predicated on the concept of the sovereign equality of States enunciated under the Charter of the United Nations. It was a simple request for participation in the work of the United Nations by a State with impressive economic achievements and an exemplary human rights record, which had made laudable efforts in the field of national and economic assistance and technical cooperation.

75. The Republic of China on Taiwan was well positioned to make a significant contribution to the realization of the goals and ideals of the United Nations. Moreover, its participation in the work of the United Nations was not precluded by any Charter-related provision. Indeed, it met all the conditions of membership outlined in the Charter. The policy of exclusion against the Republic of China on Taiwan was discriminatory and exceptional in international affairs and should not be approved by the United Nations. The legitimate desires and aspirations of the citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in the work of the United Nations deserved to be accorded consideration. Inclusion of the item in the agenda would be a first step in that process. It was the least that could be done to redress the injustice that had been done to the 23 million citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

76. **Mr. Richardson** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that the divergence of views on the longstanding issue of the right of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in international dialogue demonstrated the true sense of democracy that governed discourse within

the United Nations. His delegation believed that the Chinese people possessed the collective wisdom needed to resolve their differences amicably. However, the United Nations could play a pivotal role in ensuring that the voices of the 23 million Taiwanese people were heard in regional and international forums.

77. The economic achievements of the Republic of China on Taiwan had proven its ability to make a meaningful contribution to the international community. At a time when the vulnerable economies of small developing States, such as his own, were being undermined by globalization, trade liberalization and the donor community's inconsistent contributions to the developing world, the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan continued to demonstrate its unparalleled commitment to the spirit of cooperation. He was surprised that the international community had taken so long to recognize that the Republic of China on Taiwan, with its sound democracy and respect for human rights, had the political will and economic ability to take its rightful place in the family of nations, and he urged the Organization's leadership to promote that goal.

78. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country, which had been the victim of armed aggression for over three years, considered the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence enshrined in the Charter to be of the utmost importance. In view of those principles and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his Government felt that the debate on the representation of the Chinese people was closed. It therefore rejected the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

79. **Mr. Nteturuye** (Burundi) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had fully recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole legal representative of the people of China in the Organization. His Government had always considered that there was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. The international community should not succumb to the temptation of reopening a debate which had been long closed, since that would be extremely counter-productive. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

80. **Mr. Yahya** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the question of the representation of China in the United Nations had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The representatives of the People's Republic of China were the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Any attempt to reopen the issue would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

81. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that, since the matter had been settled by the United Nations 30 years ago when it had adopted General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation did not see any justification for re-opening the discussions.

82. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) reiterated his delegation's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legal Government of China, and Taiwan was an integral part of Chinese territory. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the matter of China's representation at the United Nations, did not need to be revisited. His delegation therefore did not support the proposal for the inclusion of the item.

83. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) said that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China and that the debate about it was a waste of time and a distraction from the important issues that the General Assembly had to address. Moreover, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 2758 (XXVI) which had definitively settled the issue, must be respected. His delegation recognized the principle of a People's Republic of China which was one and indivisible and the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. It therefore rejected the proposal to include the item in the agenda.

84. **Mr. Tsering** (Bhutan) said that his delegation was against the inclusion of the item as it had been in the past.

85. **Mr. Muchetwa** (Zimbabwe) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter of the representation of the Chinese people in the United Nations. The question of China's province of Taiwan was an internal matter for the Chinese people alone to resolve. Taking it up at the United Nations would be tantamount to meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and fomenting division. Those who really wished to help the province of Taiwan should urge it to come to terms with the

authorities of the People's Republic of China in order to be able to participate fully in the activities of the United Nations under the banner of the People's Republic of China. They should not be guided by how much aid they had received or by any other economic considerations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

86. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) said that the proposed item should not be included in the agenda. Venezuela recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people.

87. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana) said that Ghana's position on the question of the representation of China at the United Nations had been consistent and very clear. The matter had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representative of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. Some of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations would be violated if the proposal under consideration were accepted. His delegation therefore opposed its inclusion in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that the General Assembly's historic resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the imprescriptible rights of the People's Republic of China and recognized it as the sole and legitimate representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. Guinea, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, appreciated the role which that country had always played in favour of the emancipation of peoples and of all just causes. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

89. **Mr. Botnaru** (Republic of Moldova) said that, since the question had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), he was opposed to its inclusion in the agenda.

90. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that the Committee had once again indulged itself in repetitious and wasteful debate. Year after year, the General Committee had concluded that Taiwan, which was an integral part of the People's Republic of China, had no right whatsoever to become a Member of the United Nations. There was no need to review the provisions of resolution 2758 (XXVI), as no fundamental change had occurred to warrant its reconsideration. Indeed, Pakistan believed that any attempt to reopen the issue constituted a serious violation of the Charter itself. His delegation, which strongly opposed the inclusion of the proposed item, hoped it would be the last time that the Committee would be discussing the question.

91. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.*

92. *Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Mangueira (Angola), Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Tsering (Bhutan), Mr. Mourão (Brazil), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Nteturuye (Burundi), Mr. Laoteguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Streeter (Chile), Mr. Makayat-Safonesse (Congo), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Richards (Dominica), Mr. Roshdy (Egypt), Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Aldouri (Iraq), Ms. Murnaghan (Ireland), Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy), Mr. Smagulov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Osode (Liberia), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Maïga (Mali), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gokool (Mauritius), Mr. Navarrete (Mexico), Mr. Arrouchi (Morocco), Mr. Tómas (Mozambique), Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Theron (Namibia), Mr. Osio (Nigeria), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Silas (Palau), Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama), Mr. Botnaru (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Richardson (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ferriai (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Fall (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), Mr. Gómez-Acebo (Spain), Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Ismoilov (Tajikistan), Mr. Tekaya (Tunisia), Mr. Enelesopoaga (Tuvalu), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Ibragimov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Alcalay (Venezuela), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Musambachime (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

United Nations A/BUR/56/SR.3

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

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General Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 September 2001, at 7 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Han Seung-soo (President of the General Assembly)..... (Republic of Korea)

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Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

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01-53760 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 7.15 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1*)

Section III. Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Paragraphs 45 and 46 (*Inclusion of items*) (*continued*)

Item 188 (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Espinoza Madrid** (Honduras), said that had she been present at the previous meeting, she would have supported the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda of the General Assembly.

Item 189

2. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request by the Republic of Korea for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-sixth regular session of an additional item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula" (A/56/194*).

3. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 189 should be included in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.*

Item 190 (*continued*) (A/55/241*)

4. **The Chairman** said that on 7 September 2001, the General Assembly had decided to include an additional item entitled "Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly" (A/55/241*) in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session. The representative of Bangladesh had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sorcar (Bangladesh) took a place at the Committee table.*

6. **Mr. Sorcar** (Bangladesh), speaking as the host country of Partners in Population and Development, said that the intergovernmental organization had been established following the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and had 16 member States. Its work focused on the transfer of knowledge in the field of population and reproductive health through South-South cooperation. He hoped that the General Assembly would grant the organization observer status so that it could contribute effectively to the work of the United Nations.

7. **Mr. Navarrete** (Mexico) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh.

Section IV. Allocation of items

Paragraph 47

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 47 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1*), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous sessions. The Committee might wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, paragraph 5 of the annex to its resolution 39/88 B, paragraph 6 of the annex to its resolution 45/45, paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to its resolution 48/264 and paragraph 24 of the annex to its resolution 51/241 concerning the allocation and clustering of items.

9. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 47.*

Paragraph 47 bis

10. **The Chairman** said that in paragraph 47 bis of document A/BUR/56/1/Add.1* the Secretary-General drew the attention of the General Committee to paragraph 12 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/285, which stated that starting at the fifty-sixth session, the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" would be considered by the Third Committee.

11. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 47 bis.*

Paragraphs 48 and 49

12. **The Chairman** said that the allocation of items indicated in paragraphs 49 and 6 (b) of documents A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1*, respectively, reflected suggestions made by the sponsors of the items. In that connection, he noted that in paragraph 48, the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to

paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/195 of 17 December 1999. Paragraph 2 stated that, in future, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary session after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. Paragraph 3 requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to bring to the attention of all the States Members of the General Committee and General Assembly the criteria and procedures laid down by the General Assembly whenever a request was made by an organization seeking observer status in the General Assembly.

13. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 48.*

14. **The Chairman** said that General Assembly resolution 54/195, paragraphs 2 and 3, would therefore be taken into account during the Committee's consideration of the allocation of items 182, 185 and 186.

Paragraph 49

15. **The Chairman** said that in paragraphs 49 and 8 of his memorandum (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1*, respectively), the Secretary-General listed items of the draft agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, he would first request the Committee to pronounce itself on the recommendation that it should make regarding the allocation of those items recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.

16. *It was so decided.*

Item 181 of the draft agenda (A/RES/55/258)

17. **Mr. Florent** (France) noted that in adopting its resolution 55/258, the General Assembly had decided to inscribe the item entitled "Administration of justice" in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session without specifying the committee to which the item should be allocated. In the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/56/1, para. 60), it was proposed that the question of human resources management, which would include the administration of justice, should be allocated to the Fifth Committee. However, the latter topic, on which the Secretary-General had been asked to submit a report (A/RES/55/258 (sect. XI, para. 4)), would cover a number of legal issues, such as the gap between the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization and the proposal that the International Court of Justice should be empowered to hear appeals against decisions taken by the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. It might therefore be preferable for item 181 of the draft agenda to be allocated to the Sixth Committee. The report to be submitted by the Secretary-General would provide needed guidance on the matter; he therefore proposed that allocation of the item should be deferred until the Committee could take into account the content of the report in question.

18. *The Committee decided to defer further consideration of item 181 of the draft agenda.*

Items 183, 184 and 189 of the draft agenda

19. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 183, 184 and 189 of the draft agenda should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Items 182, 185, 186, 187 and 190 of the draft agenda

20. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 182, 185, 186, 187 and 190 of the draft agenda should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Paragraph 50 (Item 10 of the draft agenda)

21. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General of his annual report on the work of the Organization (A/56/1).*

Paragraph 50 bis (Item 10 of the draft agenda)

22. *The Committee also decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 14 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/285, which stated that the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, would inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action.*

Paragraph 51 (Item 12 of the draft agenda)

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated in accordance with the suggestions made by the Secretary-General.*

Paragraph 52 (Item 18 of the draft agenda)

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories should be referred to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), thus enabling the Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.*

Paragraph 52 bis (Item 21 of the draft agenda)

25. **The Chairman** noted that in paragraph 52 bis (A/BUR/56/1/Add.1*), the Secretary-General recalled paragraph 7 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/285, in which the Assembly had decided that a joint debate would be held on the cooperation item, during which all or some aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations might be addressed.

26. *The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions of paragraph 52 bis.*

Paragraph 53 (Item 36 of the draft agenda)

27. **The Chairman** noted that in paragraph 53, the Secretary-General recalled paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/23 of 13 November 2000, in which the General Assembly had decided to devote two days of plenary meetings at the fifty-sixth session, on 3 and 4 December 2001, to the consideration of item 36 of the draft agenda, including consideration of any follow-up measures, and commemoration of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.

28. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of paragraph 53.*

Paragraph 54 (Item 56 of the draft agenda)

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.*

Paragraph 55 (Item 73 of the draft agenda)

30. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 73 (Question of Cyprus) should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.*

Paragraph 56 (Item 85 of the draft agenda)

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 85 should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.*

Paragraph 57 (Item 109 (c) of the draft agenda)

32. **The Chairman** noted that the information contained in paragraph 57 concerning the dates of the two-day high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership had been superseded by a decision of the General Assembly, taken at its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 September 2001, to the effect that the high-level dialogue would be held on Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 September 2001.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the new dates.*

34. **The Chairman** said that in paragraph 57, the Secretary-General also recalled paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 55/193 of 20 December 2000, in which it had decided that the high-level dialogue would consist of plenary meetings, ministerial round-table meetings and informal panels, with the participation of non-governmental actors, and that the final outcome of the dialogue would be a summary by the President, to be presented at the closure of the event.

35. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of those provisions.*

Paragraph 58 (Item 120 of the draft agenda)

36. **The Chairman** noted that in paragraph 58, the Secretary-General recalled paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/57 of 4 December 2000, in which it had decided that two plenary meetings of the fifty-sixth session would be devoted to volunteering, to coincide with the close of the International Year of Volunteers on 5 December 2001.

37. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of paragraph 58.*

Paragraph 59 (Item 124 of the draft agenda)

38. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 111 of the draft agenda.*

Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting

39. **Ms. Willson** (United States of America) said that item 21 (f) (formerly item 26) of the draft agenda, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", had been proposed for consideration in plenary meeting. However, as stated in paragraph 48 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General and in accordance with current practice relating to other organizations and with General Assembly resolution 54/195, consideration of any aspect of the item which might result in the extension of privileges equivalent to observer status must first be undertaken in the Sixth Committee.

40. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration in plenary meeting, including the new item 21 (a) to (m) on cooperation (old items 21 to 32 and 184) and 183 (Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict), excluding item 73 (Question of Cyprus) and with the deletion of item 38 (Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly), should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee

41. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the First Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India", should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee

43. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Second Committee should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee

44. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Third Committee, including item 38 (Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly), should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee

45. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the*

memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Fifth Committee, taking into account its decision to defer the allocation of item 181 (Administration of justice at the United Nations), should be allocated to that Committee.

Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee

46. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Sixth Committee, including items 182 (Observer status for the International Development Law Institute in the General Assembly), 185 (Observer status for the International Hydrographic Organization in the General Assembly), 187 (International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings) and 190 (Observer status for Partners in Population and Development in the General Assembly), should be allocated to that Committee.*

The meeting rose at 8 p.m.